

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EA-11 DRC-01

(ISO)W

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R 051550Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2786

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 610

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: CURRENT ATMOSPHERICS

1. WITH MOROCCAN EMISSARIES NOW ENTERING SECOND WEEK OF THEIR TRAVEL ABROAD TO EXPLAIN MOROCCAN POSITION ON SAHARA, PRESS CONTINUES TO CARRY DAILY GLOWING REPORTS ON THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. CLAIMS OF EGYPTIAN, SAUDI, KUWAITI, LEBANESE, SYRIAN, IRAQI AND YEMENI SUPPORT HAVE BEEN PLAYED UP. ON OTHER HAND, REPORTS FROM EMISSARIES VISITING COMMUNIST CHINA AND EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE HAVE BEEN NOTEWORTHY FOR ABSENCE OF SUCH CLAIMS OF SUPPORT.

2. MAURITANIAN FONMIN OULD MOUKNASS' PRESS CONFERENCE OF AUG 3 IN NOUAKCHOTT, IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY DECLARED THAT MAURITANIA REMAINS IN FAVOR OF SAHARAN SELF-DETERMINATION
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AND THAT SAHARA IS "PART OF MAURITANIAN TERRITORY," HAS

EVOKED PREDICTABLE NEGATIVE PRESS REACTION HERE. THIS SAID TO BE FIRST OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF MAURITANIAN POSITION SINCE SAHARAN ISSUE'S RECENT ERUPTION. L'OPINION (ISTIQLAL) EDITORIAL, REPRINTED BY SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN, FOR EXAMPLE, CHARACTERIZED MAURITANIAN POSITION AS "FEROCIOUSLY ANTI-MOROCCAN" AND AS UNVEILING TRUE INTENTIONS OF MAURITANIAN LEADERS, "WHO ONCE AGAIN WANT TO SERVE INTERESTS OF COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM."

3. KING HASSAN POINTEDLY RECEIVED REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTHERN PROVINCES OF TETOUAN, HOCEIMA, AND NADOR ON AUG 2, AND ANNOUNCED HE WOULD VISIT THESE AREAS AFTER RAMADAN. WHILE KING DID NOT MENTION CEUTA AND MELILLA, DELEGATION PRAISED HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS TO LIBERATE AND RECOVER CEUTA, MELILLA, AND JAAFARINE ISLANDS, AS WELL AS SPANISH SAHARA.

4. HASAN TOUHAMI, SECY GENERAL OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, RETURNED TO MOROCCO AUG 2, AGAIN EXPRESSING PUBLIC HOPES THAT MOROCCO WOULD RECOVER SAHARA (RABAT 3394). TOUHAMI, HAVING RECENTLY SEEN BOUMEDIENE AND OULD DADDAH, MET WITH KING AUG 4, AFTER WHICH HE ANNOUNCED HE WOULD UNDERTAKE FURTHER CONTACTS IN SPAIN, WHICH, HE THOUGH, WOULD PERMIT "OPENING OF A COMPLETE DIALOGUE."

5. COMMENT: CAMPAIGN ON SAHARA, BOTH ON INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL LEVELS, REMAINS GOM'S PRIMARY PREOCCUPATION. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT GOM IS KEEPING CAMPAIGN UNDER CAREFUL CONTROL WITH VIEW PARTICULARLY TO AVOIDING EXCESSIVE PROVOCATION OF SPAIN AT THIS STAGE. GOM'S INTEREST IN KEEPING ITS CHANNELS OPEN TO MADRID REFLECTED IN TOUHAMI'S APPARENT INTERMEDIARY ROLE WITH SPAIN AND IN PUBLICITY ACCORDED TO FACT (BUT NOT CONTENT) OF RECENT MOROCCAN-SPANISH CONTACTS HERE (I.E., DELIVERY OF FRANCO LETTER TO KING JULY 27 AND KING'S MEETING WITH SPANISH AMB JULY 30).
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